

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF REV. KIM KWAN-SOK

1. MORNING OF JUNE 10 TRIAL OF REV. KIM KWAN-SOK,
S.C. GENL. OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
-KOREA AND THREE OTHER CLERGYNNWN FOR ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT
OF CHURCH FUNDS OPENED FOR ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES AT
SEOUL DISTRICT CRIMINAL COURT. AFTER A FEW QUESTIONS
BY PRESIDING JUDGE KWAK DONG-HYUN ESTABLISHING IDENTITY
AND RECORD OF DEFENDENTS THE TRIAL WAS POSTPONED FOR
"TWO WEEKS" BECAUSE OF OVERCROWDING OF
COURTROOM. JUDGE PROMISED TO SET NEW DATE IN TWO WEEKS
IN LARGER COURT ROOM.

2. AS EARLIER INDICATED BY MINISTER OF JUSTICE TO
DR. WILLIAM THOMPSON OF WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES,
SMALL COURT ROOM WAS CHOSEN TO LIMIT ACCESS OF
OBSERVERS. NCCC-K OBSERVERS SEPCULATED TO EMBOFF
THAT POSTPONEMENT WITHOUT FIXED DATE FOR RESUMPTION
OF COURT SESSION MAY BE ROKG MANEUVER TO DRAG OUT TRIAL
FOR SOEM TIME TO COME, TO RELEASE DEFENDENTS
EVENTUALLY IN VIEW OF WEAKNESS OF GOVERNMENT CASE
AND COLLAPSE OF CHURCH OPPOSITION.

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3. COURT ROOM WAS FILLED WITH OVER HUNDRED PERSONS, INCLUDING KANG WAN-YONG, OLD MAN HAN SUK-HAN, OTHER PROMINENT CLERGYMEN, MME YUN PO-SAN, AMERICAN MISSIONARIES, AND TWO JAPANESE LAWYER REPRESENTING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND GERMAN BREAD FOR WORLD FOUNDATION WHOSE FUNDS HAD BEEN ALLEGEDLY MISUED, AS WELL AS KOREA AND FOREIGN NEWSMEN. ANOTHER 100-150 PERSONS WERE ASSEMBLED OUTSIDE COURTROOM. WHEN JUDGE ANNOUNCED ADJOURNMENT, SPECTATORS BROKE OUT IN SINGING HYMNS FOR HALF HOUR, AND DEFIED EFFORTS TO SILENCE THEM, BUT AFTERWARDS LEFT PEACEFULLY.
SNEIDER

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